

Emergency Commission on Sixth District Congressional Gerrymandering
Wineland Building
16 Francis St., Annapolis, MD 21401
March 22, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 10:14 a.m.

- Chair Walter Olson reviewed the meeting agenda with the Commission. He noted that public comment is to remain open through March 26th and that in order to give full consideration to the public comments, the Commission's final vote will not take place until after the public comment period. A telephone conference call would be scheduled by the end of the meeting.
- The Commission members were then asked to share thoughts and takeaways from the public record so far.
- Deborah Lundahl was pleased with the turnout for the public hearings. She was disappointed that some members of the public wanted the Commission to go beyond the Sixth district but understands their reasoning. She believes the Commission did the best they could in finding a two-district solution.
- Christopher Howard noted the public comments regarding District One. He was impressed by the positive reception by the public at the public hearings and in the submitted comments.
- Chair Judge Williams was impressed by the comments provided at the public hearing. He noted that there were mixed comments but that it is important to understand the limitations of the Commission. He also noted that there was resentment by some members of the public that any parts of Montgomery be included. While he appreciates the comments, the numbers just do not work out. The Commission's charge was to disturb the least amount of districts. Suggested that in their report, they mention that they tried to bring in Carroll County but the numbers didn't work. He said it is now up to the other stakeholders in the process. He indicated it was a pleasure to serve with the Commissioners and expressed his appreciation to them.
- Walter Olson echoed the positive sentiments for his fellow commissioners. He noted lessons he took away from the public hearings, including proactively addressing questions the public may raise. The public also had raised interesting points that he otherwise may not have thought of and the Commission will be able to address them in their report.
- Ashley Oleson noted that the comments generally indicated that the public was fed up with gerrymandering and wants better for the future. She is happy with the public accessibility the Commission was able to provide. She would like transparent processes like this going forward.
- Maury Epner listened and read all comments and noticed three things. First, not one person thought District Six was appropriately drawn. Second, there was overwhelming consensus from those who commented on the Commission's

proposed map that it was well drawn. Third, gerrymandering exists throughout the state. The people the Commission heard from, regardless of party, observed the entire state was improperly drawn. He also indicated that there was a legitimate difference of view on whether to interpret their mandate more narrowly or more broadly. He believes that a non-partisan commission should one day be tasked to redraw all of Maryland.

- Luis Gutierrez reiterated that not a single person defended the results or process of the current drawing of District Six and noted he is a registered Democrat. He stated that process matters a lot and that ideally there would have been more time and more public hearings. As an Emergency Commission there were limitations on time, which is why they didn't overstep in their duty. He was heartened by the large amount of support and recognition the Commission received.
- Christopher Howard noted that in their report it should be emphasized that future efforts should be also be non-partisan.
- Walter Olson affirmed that the report will highlight suggestions for future processes.
- The Commission then discussed their report which is due on April 2nd and duties to be assigned.
- The first conference call will take place on Wednesday, March 27th at 11:00 a.m.
- The second conference call in which the Commission will finalize their report will take place on April 1st at 11:00 a.m.
- Meeting Adjourned at 10:41 a.m.